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Committee for Education Funding

December 3, 2019

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the more than 110 education organizations and institutions that are members of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), we urge you to work for the highest possible levels of education funding as Congress finalizes funding for the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. We support the increased education investments that the House included in June, and not the far lower levels in the Senate proposal.

As you know, earlier this year Congress raised the FY 2020 cap on non-defense discretionary funding by a total of \$27 billion. The Labor-HHS-Education bill contains 30 percent of all non-defense discretionary funding, so a proportionate share of that increase would provide the bill with an increase of more than \$8 billion. We urge you to push for at least that increase to make long-needed new investments in education programs.

The Labor-HHS-Education bill has failed to get its proportional share of funding increases over recent years, and most education programs have seen their funding cut or frozen even though these programs are key to student achievement, job success, and future economic growth. In fact, current discretionary resources for the Department of Education are more than \$7 billion below the FY 2011 level in inflation-adjusted terms. This leaves many education programs insufficiently funded to fulfill their intended goals and meet student needs.

CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan and non-profit organization reflecting the entire education continuum. Our members are parents and students, teachers and school leaders, counselors, school board members, universities and school districts, associations and others with the common goal of ensuring that education is adequately funded.

As Congress continues to negotiate the FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill, CEF urges you to increase vital investments in education across

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the entire education continuum, including early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, higher education, career technical and adult education, and out-of-school educational providers such as libraries and museums.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephanie Giesecke in cursive script.

Stephanie Giesecke  
President

Handwritten signature of Sheryl Cohen in cursive script.

Sheryl Cohen  
Executive Director